

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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O P 010808Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2454
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSEV
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0621

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, EMIN, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS-JUNE 1,1978

1. MILITARY SITUATION: NO CHANGE IN DEPLOYMENT
OF FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS.WHERE THE BELGIANS
PULLED ONE PATROL UNIT OUT OF KIPQYHI ON MAY 31,
THE LOCAL EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY RAISED SUCH A FUROR
THAT A REPLACEMENT UNIT WAS IMMEDIATELY SENT.
FEELINGS REMAIN VERY HIGH THAT THERE WILL BE
A MASSIVE EVACUATION BY SHABA'S EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY
IF THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH LEAVE. ONE HIGH GECAMINES SOURCE
ESTIMATED THAT 60-75 PC OF HIS COMPANY'S EXPATRIATPS
WOULD WANT TO DEPART.

2. KOLWEZI: UNCONTROLLED FAZ PILLAGING CONTINUED.
WATER,ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE SERVICES HAVE BEEN RESTORED
TO THE I2,, AT LEAST PERIODICALLY. A SECOND TRAIN CARRYING
FOOD IS DUE ON JUNE1. A GROUP OF SICK AND WOUNDED
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ZAIRIAN CIVILIANS WERE AIRLIFTED FROM THE HOSPITAL IN
KOLWEZI, TO LUBUMBASHI ON MAY 31 BECAUSE OF
THE INADEQUACY OF KOLWEZI'S MEDICAL FACILITIES. THEY
BROUGHT WITH THEM STORIES

ABOUT FAZ SOLDIERS GOING THROUGH THE KOLWEZI
HOSPITAL WARDS EXTORTING MONEY AND BEATING

PATIENTS.

3. GECAMINES KOLWEZI OPERATIONS: GECAMINES HAS BEEN SENDNG A TEAM OF TOP TECHNICIANS MOSTLY EXPATRIATES TO KOLWEZI EACH DAY IN AN EFFORT TO RESTART THEIR KOLWEZI OPERATIONS. THE TEM HAS VISITED ALL MINING FACILITIES, EXCEPT THE METALKAT ZINC PLANT AND FOUND ALL INSTALLATIONS AND HEAVY MINING EQUIPMENT IN GOOD SHAPE. GECAMINES STOKC OF DIESEL OT KOLWEI WAS NOT TOUCHED. APPROXIMATELY 200 OF THE COMPANIES 1000 TRUCKS AT KOLWEZI ARE IN RUNNING ORDER. USING ZAIRIAN CADRE, SUPPLEMENTED BY THE VISITING TEAMS, GECAMINES HAS RECOMMENCED PARTIAL OPERATIONS AT ONE OPEN PIT MINE AND ONE OF THE COMPANIES TWO CONCENTRATORS. A CONFLICT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN GECAMINES SENIOR ZAIRIAN AND EXPATRIATE STAFF OVER HOW RAPIDLY MINING OPERATIONS CAN BE RESUMED. DELEGATE GENERAL UMBA WANT ALL FACILITIES STARTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM KINSHASA TO TAKE ACTION. THE EXPATRIATES ARGUE THAT THE UNDERGROUND MINE AND THE COMPANY'S MODERN KAMOTO CONCENTRATOR REQUIRE MORE TECHNICAL TALENT THAN IS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. THE EXPATRIATES SAY THAT THESE FACILITIES COULD EASILY BE STARTED FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES BUT BREAKDOWNS WOULD NOT BE REPAIRED WHICH WOULD MEAN COSTLY DAMAGE OR POSSIBLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CAVE-INS AT THE UNDERGROUND MINE. NEVERTHELESS GECAMINES IS PLEASED WITH THE WORK ITS ZAIRIAN ENGINEERS AND WOCKERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH TO DATE.

4. LUBUMBASHI: PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN LUB UMBASHI JUNE 1. LARGE NUMBERS OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

HAVE DESCENDED UPON THE TOWN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS. FEW HAVE HAD TROUBLE FINDING STORIES ABOUT THE MODD OF THE EXPATRIATE POPULATION, FAZ BRUTALITY, AND THE UNPOPULARITY OF THE KINSHASA AUTHORITES. SEVERAL OF THE JOURNALISTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMALLY TOLD BY SHABA'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT THEY HAVE 24 HOURS TO GET OUT OF SHABA.

5. MILITARY ABUSE OF THE CURFEW HAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF MILITARY GOVERNOR SINGA WHO IS QUOTED IN MUJUMBE AS SAYING THAT THE CURFEW IS MEANT "NOT TO SOW DISORDER AND INSECURITYP

WITH THE POPULATION." THE AUTHORITIES
DO NOT INTEND HE CURFEW TO MEAN LIGHTS
OUT IN HOUSES NOR TO FORBID PEOPLE
TO LEAVE THEIR HOUSES TO USE THE PRIVACY
OF THEIR OWN PROPERTY.

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